

Cape Argus, 05 May 2020

LETTERS

Email clletters@iml.co.za (no attachments). All letters must contain the writer's full name, physical address and telephone number. No pen names.

Ensuring water supply beyond lockdown

THE National Institute for Communicable Diseases confirmed the first Covid-19 case on March 5. The government acted swiftly, declaring Covid-19 a disaster in terms of the Disaster Management Act (57 of 2002).

As with the rest of the world, South Africa is still faced with the novel coronavirus pandemic and its adverse effects on various aspects of our lives. There is no doubt that this deadly virus has changed the way we carry out our daily activities and has made us think on our feet and find new ways of doing things.

In a bid to curb the novel Covid-19, over 15 000 water tanks and approximately 2 000 water tankers trucks have been delivered to municipalities across South Africa.

Witzenberg, water tanks and taps have been vandalised or stolen. The vandalising of the emergency water supply infrastructure does not only affect service delivery negatively, but is a waste of the much-needed public resources.

This also works against the ideal of ensuring water availability within the need to effect success in reducing infections. As we wage the battle against Covid-19, we encourage different role-players to contribute towards curbing vandalism of the water infrastructure by employing the following measures:

- Communities must be the eyes and ears of the government to look after water infrastructure

- Chamber of Business can lend a helping hand by encouraging industries (scrapyards) not to buy stolen water infrastructure.

- Communities are urged to report incidents of vandalism to the local authorities and law enforcement.

- Awareness and education remain key interventions to curb vandalism and theft of water infrastructure.

We commend those communities that acted swiftly... by looking after the water infrastructure

"Water is Life. Sanitation is Dignity"

NTOMBIZANELE BILA-MUPARIWA

Department of Water and Sanitation provincial director for Planning and Information/Water Sector Support

avoid confusion.
In response to locked-out waste pickers in Pietermaritzburg, the municipality's disregard for the municipality's disregard for waste pickers to the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries. The ministry facilitated a meeting between the municipality and waste pickers to iron out as well as the interpretation of Level 4 regulations.

Now hopefully the waste pickers will come to the party and do the right thing, one can only hope. The importance of this to many families who live as a source of livelihood

Chamame is a waste ground/Work, Friend



Handwritten signature and date: 2020/5/03

